

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, as the rock band Queen so gracefully put it, "And another one's gone, and another one's gone, and another one bites the dust."

With the passage of the final part of the crime package last night, the Contract With America smoothly continues on its way toward completion by mid-April.

But we still have plenty of work to do. Today we begin the important task of rebuilding our military after years of neglect under the Clinton administration.

We simply cannot afford to continue on our current path, which will surely lead to a hollow force reminiscent of the Carter years. We simply cannot continue putting U.S. troops under U.N. command. We saw how deadly that can be in Somalia.

And we must increase the readiness and training of our forces while providing them with the hardware they need to do their job properly.

The said fact is that this administration has ignored the needs of the military and endangered the future of our national security. All that changes today.

□ 1130

BOONDOGGLES IN THE SKY

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, today we take up H.R. 7. If it were a song, we could get Vaughn Monroe to record it, and we would call it "Boondoggles in the Sky." It is, in fact, spending additional moneys in addition to the \$36 billion we have already spent on star wars, a system that does not work, and now we are starting to make a decision as to whether or not we put our dollars into troop training, into weapons modernization, into spare parts, or do we put the high priority on this budget-busting fantasy called star wars? Estimates are it would cost anywhere from \$11 billion, with a B, to \$97 bill, with a B, more dollars.

Now this all came out of the Contract With America, and I say to my colleagues, "You have to remember, ladies and gentlemen, we're talking about our national defense, yet the Contract With America is a political document written by lobbyists, written by special interests who were able to donate tens of thousands of dollars to their favorite political party in order to have a seat at the table."

Now do we want those people setting our national defense policy, or do we want the Joint Chiefs of Staff to decide our defense policy? Do we want the political consultants and the lobbyists deciding our defense policies, or do we

want the Secretary of Defense deciding what our policy will be?

SUPPORT THE MISSING SERVICE PERSONNEL ACT OF 1995

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995 to ensure fairness in resolving any further questions about our missing armed service personnel.

Currently, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Defense relies on outdated legislation and guidelines which have not been changed over the past 50 years in designating those who are missing in action and/or declared dead. As a result, those who are missing are declared dead when there is still a possibility that they could still be alive.

The purpose of the Missing Service Personnel Act is to make certain that any members of the Armed Forces, any civilian officers or any employee serving with or accompanying an Armed Force in a field under orders will be fully accounted for by the Federal Government and may not be declared dead solely because of the passage of time.

Accordingly, I am urging my colleagues to strongly support this legislation. It is the very least we could do to both assist the family members who painfully and frustratingly seek the truth about their loved ones and for those who have chosen to serve and fight for our Nation.

TALK TO ME ABOUT THE BAL- ANCED BUDGET DIVIDEND PLAN

(Mr. BROWDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on the Budget during the past months has traveled around the country to listen to the wisdom of the American people. I have asked at these public hearings whether they want us to use budget savings to pay for a tax cut or to apply them to the budget deficit. The overwhelming response has been, "Cut the deficit first."

The tax cut is a big train on a fast track, but Mr. and Mrs. America are right. We should make any tax cuts dependent on our meeting deficit reduction targets pointing toward a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, I am circulating a plan to do this, and, if any of my colleagues would like more information, I encourage them to talk with me about the balanced budget dividend plan.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA'S GROWING LIST OF SUCCESSES

(Mr. TATE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we honored yet another promise in our Contract With America by passing a sweeping, comprehensive crime control package once again, we worked hard to add one more piece of legislation to the growing list of successes in the 104th Congress. And through this hard work, Republicans are proving that real change is achievable.

Now we move on to the next contract item—the National Security Revitalization Act. This bill not only provides for a strong national defense to protect America's freedoms, this bill limits the placement of any U.S. troops under U.N. command. Through this bill, we will pledge to our service men and women that their jobs and their lives are important to us—they will not be put at risk under foreign commanders.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all my colleagues to support the National Security Revitalization Act. Let's take an assertive step in the right direction to provide our country its more basic need—defense.

STAR WARS: DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian hostage crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan helped produce a consensus for higher defense spending and a landslide victory for the GOP in 1980. But instead of concentrating on the ability to fight terrorism and conventional wars, Ronald Reagan used his mandate for a stronger military indiscriminately. He poured billions into strategic nuclear weapons and space-based missile defenses designed for all-out war against the Soviet Union, and instead of focusing on improving the combat capability of conventional and special operations forces, Reagan chose to fund expensive and complex new weapons programs based on unproven technology. The result was a larger military that required unsustainable levels of resources, and the country is still dealing with the consequences of that debt.

Today, once again, the Republicans are doing little to address legitimate concerns about the readiness of our troops. Instead, they are proposing massive increases in defense spending to field super-sophisticated weapons, including space-based defenses designed for the cold war. I call on my Republican colleagues to stop and think about what the country's real defense needs may be. We need the best trained and equipped soldiers in the world, not another 30-50 billion dollar's worth of work on star wars systems that wouldn't work even if they addressed a real threat. Let us not make the same mistake twice and dig our country deeper into debt.